

CHINESE CARVINGS.

Artistic Ornaments Cut Out of Nuts and Tiny Fruit Stones.

The most curious objects which are made subjects of the carver's art in China are the various nuts and fruit stones. Among the latter class may be named the stones of the olive, plum, peach, cherry, and of the former the most common are made upon the shells of walnuts and coconuts. These seeds and nuts are collected with great care and carefully cleaned and dried before being taken to the carver, who has an invariable standard of size, proportion, weight, hardness, etc. When every detail has been carried out to the satisfaction of the artist a nut or seed is selected by the designer, who roughly traces upon its surface an outline of the future picture. This is handed over to apprentices, who block out the design by cutting through the lignous tissue along the lines drawn. The crude carving is again passed to the designer, who sketches a second and more intricate series of outlines, when it again goes forward to the subordinates, who cut out the indicated channels. After this the designer gives the object its finishing touches, and the assistants prepare it for market by polishing, oiling and waxing the carvings. These nut and fruit stone carvings are shown in the shape of buttons, watch charms, sleeve links, earrings and brooches. Collections of them strung on silver, copper or gold wire are also used as bracelets, anklets, necklaces, rosaries and official ornaments.

The carvings represented upon these seed and nut ornaments are frequently of a very high order of conception and display much of the carver's cleverness and dexterity. The writer has seen single cherry seeds upon which were plainly and artistically outlined a dragon, two crickets, a cornflower and a bunch of grapes. On the larger seeds and nuts are represented entire trees and their fruits and leaves, vines with leaves, flowers and vegetables attached as well as buildings, bridges, towers, temples and fences. Among the second group, which are usually composed principally of animal figures, the horse, lion, tiger, elephant, camel and bull are most generally represented.—Exchange.

TO WIN POPULARITY.

Have a good time, but never let fun degenerate into license.

Rejoice as genuinely in another's success as in your own.

Learn to control yourself under the most trying circumstances.

Have a kind word and a cheery, encouraging smile for every one.

Meet trouble like a man, and cheerfully endure what you can't cure.

Believe in the brotherhood of man and recognize no class distinctions.

Do not be self opinionated, but listen with deference to the opinions of others.

Never utter witticisms at the risk of giving pain or hurting some one's feelings.

Be ambitious and energetic, but never benefit yourself at the expense of another.

Be as courteous and agreeable to your inferiors as you are to your equals and superiors.—Success.

A Truthful Verdict.

A clergyman who had accepted an invitation to officiate at Sunday services in a neighboring town intrusted his new curate with the performance of his own duties. On returning home he asked his wife what she thought of the curate's sermon.

"It was the poorest one I ever heard," she replied promptly—"nothing in it at all."

Later in the day the clergyman, meeting his curate, asked him how he had got on.

"Oh, very well!" was the reply. "I didn't have time to prepare anything, so I preached one of your unused sermons."—Harper's Weekly.

Fat Folks and Disease.

Fat people are less able to resist the attacks of disease or the shock of injuries and operations than the moderately thin. In ordinary everyday life they are at a decided disadvantage, points out the London Hospital. Their respiratory muscles cannot so easily act. Their heart is often handicapped by the deposit on it, and the least exertion throws them into a perspiration. A person whose limbs and body are covered with adipose tissue is in the position of a man carrying a heavy burden and too warmly clothed.

Surveying Land.

The art of land surveying owes its origin to the fact that the Egyptians were unable to keep permanent monuments on land which was overflowed every year by the Nile. Under such circumstances it became necessary to have some means of reidentifying the various pieces of land. The instruments and mathematical methods of astronomy, with suitable modifications, were used by the Egyptians for land surveying.

Families Share Carriages.

A curious custom exists in Genoa. Many of the well to do people as well as those in moderate circumstances do not own either horses or carriages. They own only an interest in them. Four or five or half a dozen great families club together and buy a carriage and horses; then they arrange among themselves the days the different families will use it.

Too Great a Strain.

"What is the matter with Weggie?" "The doctor says it is brain fag." "Just as I expected. I told the dear fellow he had better let his man pick out his neckties for him."—Syracuse Herald.

STAGE TRICKS.

How Some of the Seemingly Difficult Feats Are Performed.

When you see a man come out on the stage and shoot the ashes off a cigar which is being smoked by an assistant don't believe all you see. A hatpin is run through the cigar, the point just reaching the ash. The assistant just pushes the knob at the other end, and down falls the ash to great applause. Of course only blank cartridges are used.

Breaking two glass balls with two pistols is almost as simple. One of the pistols only is loaded and with shot. The other has a blank cartridge. The loaded pistol is aimed between the two balls, and the shot scatter, breaking them both. That's the trick.

Extinguishing several numbered candles by number on request of the audience is seldom more than a hollow joke. Behind each candle is a hole in the target. An assistant hidden behind it simply blows out the candle, taking care to blow the right candle at the right time—that is, when the pistol cracks.

Blindfold shooting simply means that the performer glances down his nose to a mirror fixed at an angle behind the back sight and aims as straight this way as if the bandage were not there.

Painting a complete picture in a jiffy in presence of the audience is also artifice. What looks to you like an immaculate and untouched canvas is in reality a finished picture covered with whitewash. All the "artist" does is to simulate painting with his brush. The result is a picture that would require if it were honestly done at least a day's work.

Those awfully heavy looking dumbbells of the strong man are sometimes somewhat hollow at the core. You will notice they are always put in the same place, preferably on a special platform, when the man from the audience is invited to lift them. Under the platform are powerful magnets holding the weights down. Suddenly roll the bar off the platform, and you can probably lift it in one hand, as that operation releases it from magnetic control.

A MAORI LEGEND.

The Story of How Te Kupe Discovered New Zealand.

The Maoris are not the aborigines of New Zealand. This is the story of their coming as told by a legend handed down from chief to chief from generation to generation:

Te Kupe, a priest, lived on an island called Kawaiki, supposed to be Hawaii. He incurred the displeasure of his chief and was compelled to flee for his life. He secured a canoe and, stocking it with provisions, paddled out to sea, leaving his home and his friends, as he thought, forever. He was mourned as dead, but about a year later he returned with a glowing story of a wonderful country he had discovered. He gave graphic accounts of its mighty forests, its burning mountains, steaming lakes and huge birds.

The story caused the wildest excitement among his people, who hailed Te Kupe as a god, and preparations were at once made to explore this magic country. Seven large canoes were built and stocked with provisions and water, and a party of islanders, directed by Te Kupe, set forth on their adventurous journey. In time they reached the place he had described, and Te Kupe's canoe, the Aotea, was the first to touch the shore; hence the Maori name "Aotearoa" was given to New Zealand.

Just when this took place is one of the points in the history of these people that are lost in the shadowy memories of the past, but it is supposed to have been about 800 years ago. The Maoris of today always refer to Hawaii as the fatherland, and there is a native proverb, "I kune mai i Hawaiki te kune kai te tangata" ("The seed of our coming is from Hawaiki").

More Story of the Flood.

The legend of the flood as told by the Moros is as follows:

"When the forty days and nights of rain came No and his family got into a box. One pair of each sort of bird and beast also came in. Men who were busy with their ordinary occupations and did not enter the box were overtaken by the flood. Those who ran to the mountains became monkeys; those who ran to the water, fish. The Chinaman changed to a hornbill. A woman who was eating the fruit of a seaweed and would not stop was changed into a fish called a dugong, and her limbs can still be seen under its skin."

The Lion's Share.

It is really not the male lion, with his terrific roar and formidable appearance, that the explorer fears, but his mate. The male lion is a good looking posser, but when it comes to business it is his wife who counts, a la the African native. Game is pulled down by the female lion, and then the male beats her off until he has feasted to repletion, when she may have what is left; hence "the lion's share."

Its Charms.

Fair Visitor—So you have really decided not to sell your house? Fair Host—Yes. You see, we placed the matter in the hands of a real estate agent. After reading his lovely advertisement of our property neither John nor myself could think of parting with such a wonderful and perfect home.

Dumb.

"Doctor, don't you think that raw oysters are healthy?"

"Yes. I never knew one to complain."—Baltimore Jewish Comment.

In the countries devoted to ancestor worship the individual of the present does not count. He does not even exist until after he is dead.

The Gap in the Levan Rock.

On the way from Land's End, the extreme western point of England, to the Logan rock, just in from the cliff, after you have passed Tol-Pedn and immediately before the road drops to Porth-gwarin, there is a little valley, a big grassy nook, with one cottage, a rectory and a church. This is the parish church of St. Levan, a fisherman saint, of whom there are many legends. His path is still seen by the track of greener grass that leads out to the rocks named after him, where he fished the traditional "chack-cheeld" chad. There is his stone, too, in the churchyard, one of those ominous stones which in Cornwall are thought to be the dial of time itself, chroniclers of the hour of the last judgment. The Levan stone is a rock of granite, split in two, with grass and ferns growing in the gap between the two halves. The end of the world will come, says the rhyme, when the gap is wide enough for a pack horse with panniers to pass through. "We do nothing to hasten it," the rector said to me reassuringly.—London Standard.

Land Was Out of Sight.

"Yes," said one of the traveling men who were telling stories in front of the hotel, "I was once out of sight of land on the Atlantic ocean twenty-one days."

"On the Pacific one time I didn't see land for twenty-nine days," said another. A little, baldheaded man tilted his chair against a post and knocked the ashes from his cigar.

"I started across the Kaw river near Lawrence in a skiff once when I was a kid," he said, "and was out of sight of land before I reached the other side."

"Aw, come off!" came from one of the crowd. "The Kaw isn't more than 300 yards wide anywhere along near Lawrence."

"I didn't say it was," said the little man quietly. "The skiff turned over, and I sank twice."—Kansas City Times.

National Nicknames.

Englishmen have submitted to the name of John Bull as suited to the national character. A Scotchman is Sandy. The Irishman derives his name, Paddy, from his national patron saint, while an ancient nursery rhyme records the fact that Taffy was a Welshman. English sailors call the Frenchmen, in contempt, Johnny Crapaud, but in France he is Jacques Bonhomme, or, as a bourgeois, M. Prudhomme. Cousin Michel is the name by which the German is known to the continental nation. Myneer sums up the Dutch, while the Switzer rejoices in the name of Collu Tampon. Don Whiskerandos is almost a national nickname for the Spaniards, dating from Elizabethan times. Italians are known as Lazzaroni and Danes as Dunskers.

Finger Rings Among the Ancients. The hands of female mummies found in the tombs of Egypt are literally covered with rings, in many instances there being from two to six on every finger. In some cases these ornaments are composed wholly of gold, but in others, which probably represent all that is left of some poor man's wife or daughter, the rings are brass, glass or pottery ware. According to Josephus and Herodotus, the Chaldeans and Persians and the Babylonians were all very fond of rings and other personal ornaments.

They Warn Crocodiles.

Two or three species of birds are known to accompany the crocodile whenever he appears above water. Many a hunter has had his prospects for a shot spoiled by the alarm given to the reptile by his watchful attendants. When they see any one approaching they will fly at the crocodile's nose, giving loud cries, and the beast never waits to investigate, but instantly shuffles into the water at his best speed.

A Jewel of a Jurymen.

Lawyer—Have you formed any opinion on this case? Jurymen—No, sir. Lawyer—Do you think, after the evidence on both sides is all in, you would be able to form any opinion? Jurymen—No, sir. Lawyer—You'll do.—New York Weekly.

Saved Them.

Eph—How'd you git along ridin' in them there sleepin' cars when you took your trip? Simp—Got along all right, but I caught a colored fellow tryin' to sneak away with my boots an' made 'im bring 'em back.—Indianapolis Star.

Arcturus, the Giant Sun.

There are other stars in space that are infinitely larger than the one which gives us heat, light and life. The star Arcturus, which is known to be a sun for a faraway system of planets, is 11,500,000 times farther removed from us than is our solar luminary. His diameter is 71,000,000 and his circumference about 224,000,000 miles. Our sun is but 860,000 miles in diameter, a fact which proves that Arcturus is at least 551,000 times greater in bulk than is our "great orb of day."

A Wood Mine.

One of the most curious mines that are worked is in Tonquin, China, where in a sand formation at a depth of from fourteen to twenty feet there is a deposit of the stems of trees. The Chinese work this mine for the timber, which is found in good condition and is used in making troughs and for carving and other purposes.

Do It Well.

Doing things as well as they can be done is not only the quickest way to advancement, but it has a very great influence upon one's character and self respect. If for no other motive than to maintain our self respect, we should never allow ourselves to get into a habit of half doing things.—Success.

Some Time Ago.

Stodious Boy—Father, did you ever study arithmetic? Father (indignant)—Of course I studied arithmetic. Stodious Boy—Well, I can't find the cube root of— Father (hastily)—It's a long while since I studied it.

Last Hope Vanished.

When leading physicians said that W. M. Smithart, of Pekin, Ia., had incurable consumption, his last hope vanished; but Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, kept him out of his grave. He says: "This great specific completely cured me and saved my life. Since then I have used it for over 10 years, and consider it a marvelous throat and lung cure." Strictly scientific cure for Coughs, Sore Throats or Colds; sure preventive of Pneumonia. Guaranteed, 50c and \$1.00 bottles at Ed Greene's drug store. Trial bottle free.

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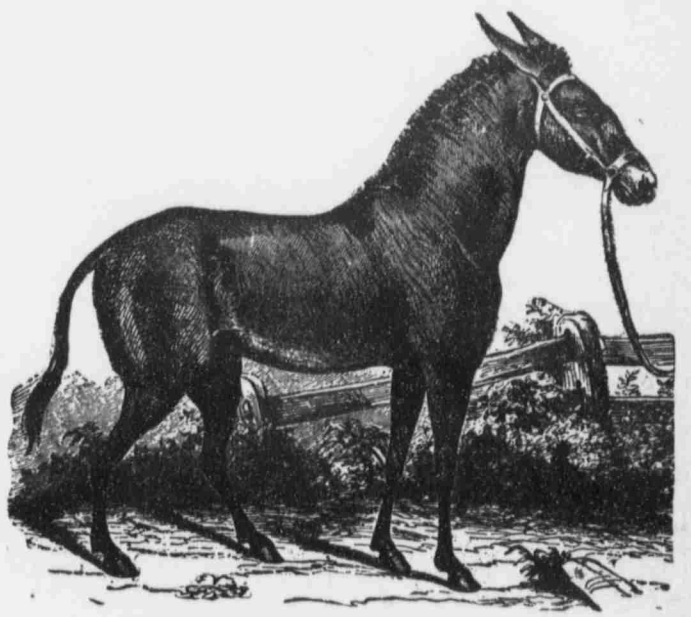
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